

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 02527 01 OF 02 171726Z
ACTION ACDA-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6133
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 02527

RW MESSAGE NO. 12

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, US, UR
SUBJECT: US-USSR ARMS CONTROL WORKING GROUP ON
RADIOLOGICAL AND NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION,
ROUND FOUR: THIRD AND FOURTH PLENARY MEETINGS,
FEBRUARY 14 AND 16, 1978

REFS: A) STATE 4624, B) GENEVA 01930, C) STATE 36559,
D) GENEVA 01930

1. SUMMARY. AT THIRD PLENARY, USDEL SOUGHT CLARIFICATION
OF SOVDEL'S REFERENCES TO LINKAGE BETWEEN AGREEMENT ON
RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS (RW) AND A COMPREHENSIVE PROHIBITION
OF NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (MDW), REITERATING
U.S. REJECTION OF SUCH LINKAGE. FOR ITS PART, SOVDEL
ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE REVISED U.S. DEFINITION
OF RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS, IN PARTICULAR WHETHER IT
EXCLUDED "INDUCED RADIATION WEAPONS." AT FOURTH PLENARY,
SOVDEL STRESSED NEGOTIATIONS ON RW AND MDW HAVE TO PROCEED
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 02527 01 OF 02 171726Z

IN PARALLEL BUT DID NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF REACHING
SEPARATE AGREEMENT ON RW FIRST. RE MDW, SOVDEL ALSO
ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO PROPOSE CREATION OF A CCD WORKING
GROUP ON THE SUBJECT TO BE COMPOSED OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS
FROM CCD MEMBER STATES. USDEL EXPLAINED RATIONALE FOR
CHANGES IN U.S. DEFINITION OF RW'S. WITH REFERENCE TO
SOVIET QUESTION RE INDUCED RADIATION WEAPONS AND TO

CURRENT SOVIET LANGUAGE FOR RW DEFINITION, USDEL REITERATED U.S. POSITION THAT ALL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES ARE EXCLUDED FROM RW NEGOTIATIONS AND ASKED SOVDEL TO RECONFIRM ITS AGREEMENT WITH THAT POSITION. HEAD OF USDEL INDICATED PERSONAL DOUBT RE ACCEPTABILITY OF SOV PROPOSAL FOR CCD WORKING GROUP ON MDW BUT INDICATED HE WOULD SEEK WASHINGTON REACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE THIRD AND FOURTH PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE US-USSR ARMS CONTROL WORKING GROUP ON RADIOLOGICAL AND NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION WERE HELD FEBRUARY 14 AND 16 RESPECTIVELY. PURSUANT TO INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REF C, U.S. DEL MADE BRIEF STATEMENT REQUESTING CLARIFICATION OF APPARENT SOVIET ATTEMPT TO LINK AGREEMENT ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS (RW) WITH REACHING AGREEMENT ON A COMPREHENSIVE PROHIBITION OF NEW TYPES AND SYSTEMS OF MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW) (REPORTED REF D). SOVIETS RESPONDED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON RW AGREEMENT AND A COMPREHENSIVE MDW TREATY HAVE TO PROCEED IN PARALLEL AND WERE LINKED IN THAT SENSE; HOWEVER, IF JOINT INITIATIVE ON RW WERE COMPLETED EARLIER, THE SOVIET DEL WOULD WELCOME IT AND BE READY TO PRESENT IT JOINTLY TO THE CCD. AMBASSADOR LIKHATCHEV (HEAD OF SOVIET DEL) ADDED THAT "IF THIS HAPPENS DURING THE SPRING SESSION, IT WOULD BE PERFECT." HE SAID THAT SOVIET DEL BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT DISCUSSION OF NEW MDW IS APPROPRIATE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE US-USSR WORKING GROUP AS WELL AS IN BOTH OFFICIAL AND INFORMAL MEETINGS OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GENEVA 02527 01 OF 02 171726Z

CCD. IN THIS CONNECTION, LIKHATCHEV SAID THE SOVIET DEL WOULD PROPOSE ESTABLISHMENT, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CCD, OF A SPECIAL GROUP OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF STATES MEMBERS OF THE CCD TO "EXAMINE THE QUESTION OF THE POSSIBLE DIRECTIONS OF CREATING NEW TYPES OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE INITIAL LIST OF PROHIBITED TYPES OF SUCH WEAPONS UNDER A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT." HE ASKED FOR THE U.S. REACTION TO SUCH A PROPOSAL. AMBASSADOR FISHER (HEAD OF U.S. DEL) SAID THAT U.S. DEL WOULD NOT OPPOSE DISCUSSION OF NEW MDW IN OFFICIAL OR INFORMAL MEETINGS OF THE CCD, BUT EXPRESSED PERSONAL DOUBTS THAT A BASIS FOR AN EXPERTS WORKING GROUP EXISTED. HOWEVER, FISHER SAID THAT HE WOULD REPORT SOVIET PROPOSAL TO WASHINGTON TO OBTAIN FORMAL USG REACTION.

3. SOVIET DEL HAD A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS RELATED TO U.S. REFORMULATION OF ILLUSTRATIVE ELEMENT #2 ON THE DEFINITION OF RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS (REF A). SOVIET QUESTIONS AND U.S. RESPONSES FOLLOW BELOW.

- QUESTION: WHY HAS THE U.S. OMITTED THE WORDS

"WEAPONS" AND "MEANS OF ITS DELIVERY." CONTAINED IN OUR FORMULATION OF THIS ARTICLE? AND WHY HAS THE U.S. REVISED THE PHRASE "NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE WEAPON" WHICH IS DERIVED FROM THE 1978 UN DEFINITION, TO READ "NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE"?

- RESPONSE: FISHER STATED THAT THE U.S. HAD CHANGED ONLY TWO POINTS IN THE ROUND THREE U.S.-PROPOSED FORMULATION OF ILLUSTRATIVE ELEMENT #2:

- (1) DELETED THE WORD "WEAPON" IN ORDERS TO ELIMINATE AN ELEMENT OF REDUNDANCY IN EARLIER LANGUAGE, AND (2) REPHRASED THE DEFINITION TO COVER BOTH DESIGN OR POTENTIAL USE AS WELL AS ACTUAL USE.

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 02527 02 OF 02 171753Z
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6134
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 02527

RW MESSAGE NO 12

B,

QUESTION: COULD THE U.S. DEL GIVE EXAMPLES OF EQUIPMENT, DEVICES OR MATERIAL WHICH ARE NOT SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED BUT USED TO CAUSE DESTRUCTION DAMAGE OR INJURY BY MEANS OF RADIATION?

- RESPONSE: FISHER REPEATED THE EXAMPLE CONTAINED IN OUR INITIAL FEBRUARY 6 EXPLANATION (REF B) OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WASTES.

- C. QUESTION: WHEN THE U.S. DEL STATED THAT RADIOLOGICAL EFFECTS PRODUCED BY NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES ARE

NOT THE SUBJECT OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS DID THIS COVER
"INDUCED RADIATION WEAPONS MENTIONED IN THE U.S. PRESS,
WHICH ARE BASED ON THE USE OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES
ESPECIALLY FOR OBTAINING RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS WITH
PREDETERMINED CHARACTERISTICS FOR THE PURPOSES OF USING
THEM FOR DESTRUCTION, DAMAGE OR INJURY?"

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 02527 02 OF 02 171753Z

- RESPONSE: FISHER REITERATED U.S. CONDITION FOR
RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS ON RW AND SAID U.S. DEL HAD ASSUMED
SOVIET DEL HAD AGREED TO THIS. HE STATED THAT THE SOVIET
DEL'S QUESTION CAUSED THE U.S. DEL TO BE CONCERNED THAT
THIS ASSUMPTION WAS INCORRECT AND ASKED WHY SOVIET SIDE
CONTINUED TO USE THEIR OCTOBER 7 ARTICLE II FORMULATION,
"NUCLEAR WEAPONS PERFORMING BY EXPLOSION" AS OPPOSED TO
THEIR AUGUST FORMULATION, "OF NON-EXPLOSIVE TYPE."
FISHER EMPHASIZED THAT IF THIS CHANGE IN LANGUAGE MEANT
THAT THE SOVIET DEL IS PROPOSING TO EXCLUDE FROM THE
PROHIBITION ONLY THOSE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS WHOSE
"PERFORMANCE" IS MEASURED PRIMARILY BY BLAST, THEN THE
PROPECTS FOR SUCCESS IN THIS ROUND WILL BE DIM INDEED.
LIKHATCHEV REPLIED THAT PERHAPS THE SOVIET QUESTION HAD
BEEN "INDISCREET" BUT IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT THE U.S. DEL
WAS "EXCESSIVELY SUSPICIOUS" OF THE SOVIET DELS QUESTIONS.
4. LIKHATCHEV ALSO BRIEFLY REMARKED ON SOME OTHER AREAS
IN WHICH HE VIEWS OF THE WO SIDES STILL DIFFERED. HE
SAID THAT THE DIFFERENCES ON ARTICLE III, PEACEFUL USES
OF RADIATION, WERE "ONLY SLIGHT" AND THAT MUTUAL AGREE-
MENT ON THIS QUESTION COULD BE QUICKLY REACHED. ON VERI-
FICATION, HE INDICATED THAT THE TWO SIDES WERE CLOSE ON
MOST ASPECTS BUT SAID THE SOVIET SIDE CONTINUED TO
CONSIDER IT UNNECESSARY TO ENDOW THE CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE WITH THE RIGHT TO INVESTIGATE THE ACTUAL STATE
OF AFFAIRS ON-SITE. REGARDING THE FORM OF THE JOINT
INITIATIVE, LIKHATCHEV SAID THE SOVIET DEL CONTINUED TO
BELIEVE THE BEST FORM WOULD BE A "FULLY AGREED...COMPLETE
DRAFT CONVENTION."

5. THE NEXT PLENARY IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON,
FEBRUARY 22.

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 02527 02 OF 02 171753Z

6. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR
RESPONSE TO SOVIET PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH CCD SPECIAL

GROUP OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS ON NEW MDW (PARA 2 ABOVE).
VANDEN HEUVEL

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